



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Committee Statement
LB 645

Hearing Date: February 19, 2003
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Hartnett)

Title: Create a preferred purchasing status for governmental units for calcium-enriched products

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File
X Advanced to General File with Amendments
Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senator Jensen, Byars, Cunningham, Maxwell, Johnson and Stuthman
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Erdman

Proponents:

Senator Harnett
Dr. Robert Heaney
Trent Jones

Representing:

Introducer
Creighton University
The National Calcium Initiative

Opponents:

Jerry Bond
Ronald Meyer

Representing:

Self
Self

Neutral:

Virgil Horne
Korby Gilbertson

Representing:

Lincoln Public Schools
Nebraska School Food Service Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes: The bill provides legislative intent that governmental units should encourage the consumption of calcium-enriched foods and beverages by giving such products a preferred purchasing status. The bill defines terms.

The bill requires governmental units to purchase calcium-enriched foods and beverages unless: (1) the calcium-enriched product is higher in price than a non-calcium-enriched product of similar type and quality, or (2) if the governmental purchaser is a state institution, the director of the institution may purchase a non-calcium-enriched product for a particular resident if he or she determines that the calcium-enriched product would interfere with the proper treatment and care of the resident.

The bill does not apply to preexisting contracts if purchasing calcium-enriched products would change the terms of such contracts.

Explanation of amendments, if any: The committee amendment (AM 480) strikes the term “calcium-enriched” and inserts the term “calcium-rich.” “Calcium rich food or beverage” is defined as “food or beverage that is naturally high in calcium or food or beverage to which calcium has been added in processing to improve its nutritional value.”

Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson